



# THE BLUE LIGHT

AUGUST 2007

THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY  
Governor

COLONEL J. CHRISTOPHER MURPHY  
Director

LT. COLONEL F.A. BINGHAM  
Assistant Director

MAJOR PATRICK MANNING  
ABI Division

MAJOR HUGH MCCALL  
Driver License Division

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL  
Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR ROBERT GOODNER  
Protective Services

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS  
Service Division

CAPTAIN KEVIN M. CLAUNCH  
Acting Chief,  
Administrative Division

## Inside this issue...

DPS is Taking Back Our Highways.....2

The Colonel's Corner.....3

New DPS Recruiting Posters.....5

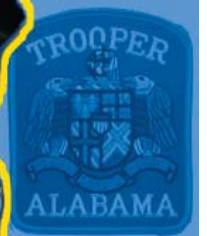
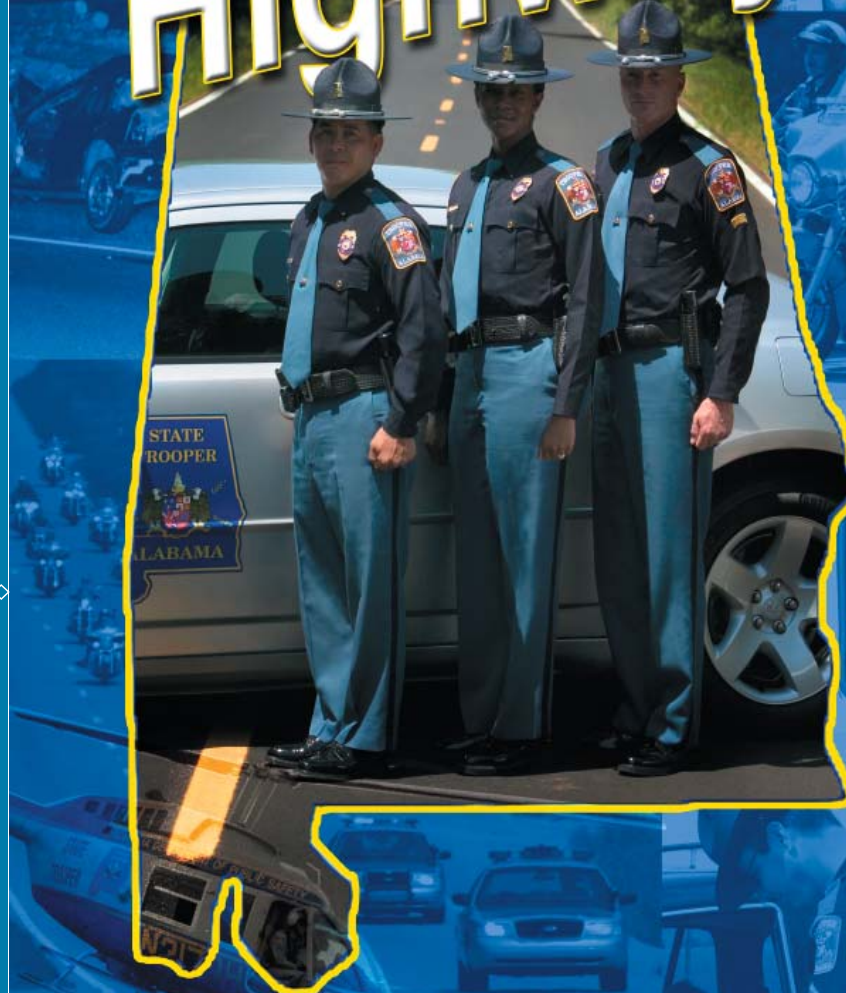
New Trooper Post Feels Like Home.....6

Critical Training for Class 2007-A.....7

DPS Gone Fishing!.....8

People You Know!.....9

## Take Back Our Highways





# DPS IS 'TAKING BACK' ALABAMA HIGHWAYS

**T**he focus on road safety and crash prevention for Alabama is now drawn in this state, following the press conference and formal announcement of “Take Back Our Highways” July 26. DPS Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy said the goal is pure and simple: To save lives on Alabama’s highways by placing every available trooper in uniform and on patrol Aug. 13-17. Additional “Take Back Our Highways” intervals will be scheduled throughout the year.

The initiative is the brainchild of Maj. Roscoe Howell, Highway Patrol Division chief, and comes in response to the escalating fatality statistics within the state of Alabama. In 2006, there were 1,208 people killed on Alabama roadways, the highest number since 1973.

During the press conference, Murphy stated, “U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters reported that the U.S. recorded its lowest highway fatality rate ever in 2006, and saw the largest drop in deaths in 15 years. At a time when traffic fatalities nationwide are on the decline, we cannot say the same is true for Alabama. Tragically for our state and for all who share her highways, traffic fatalities in Alabama have increased.”

The District Attorney’s Association has partnered with Public Safety in the campaign and has made clear its commitment to vigorous prosecution of Alabama’s dangerous drivers. Joining Murphy to speak at the news conference were District Attorneys Ellen Brooks, 15th Judicial Circuit, and Richard Minor, 30th Judicial Circuit. Also present were Brandon Hughes and Jason Swann from the Office of Prosecution Services.

Statistical information provided by the Critical Analysis Reporting Environment indicates that the primary contributing circumstances for traffic fatalities are

speeding, following too closely, failure to yield, driver inattention, and driving under the influence. Taking these statistics into consideration, DPS is implementing “Take Back Our Highways” as a proactive approach to prevent traffic fatalities through increased trooper presence and patrols, aggressive enforcement and prosecution and heightened public awareness.

*“Every available trooper will be in uniform and on our highways.”*

-Col. J. Christopher Murphy

Murphy said, “I have directed that every available arresting officer will be in uniform and enforcing our traffic laws during the week of Aug. 13. I will be taking Alabama Bureau of Investigation agents away from their normal duties for that week, and I will have Driver License troopers working the roads during that week. From Aviation, to the academy, to the majors and captains who serve on my staff, every available trooper will be in uniform and on our highways that week.”

Approximately 200 additional troopers will be added to Alabama roadways during the week of Aug. 13-17.



# The Colonel's Corner

Col. J. Chistopher Murphy, Director

**B**y now most of you know that we are initiating a Take Back Our Highways campaign Aug. 13-17, 2007. We have had the initial media briefing, and Public Information has me booked, literally, all around the state, to discuss this campaign on morning shows, evening news and local radio and newspapers. I am very excited about the campaign, and I appreciate the enthusiasm with which the department is embracing this ... including one particular ABI agent, who said he wasn't upset about shaving his mustache to put the uniform back on ... "It will grow back," he said.

The driving force behind this campaign is to reduce fatalities and to remedy the unsafe driving of many motorists in this state. That is the reason for the campaign. A side benefit, I hope, is that it will take all of us back to our roots and focus us on the original purpose of the department, dating back to 1935. I also hope it will remind all arresting officers that we are all troopers, no matter where we are currently assigned. And finally, I hope this program will remind us that, regardless of our many functions and responsibilities, we are one department.

I am extremely pleased that Gov. Riley has carved out time on Aug. 14 to see on site how a LIDAR detail works. The governor actually may ride with a trooper to pull over a violator. He also will hold a brief news conference after the detail to show his support for our campaign and this department. I also appreciate the cooperation of all divisions, especially Highway Patrol for coordinating the effort and Maj. Roscoe Howell for introducing this concept. And I have to say a very strong thank you to Martha Earnhardt and all in PIO who have worked so very hard in defining, organizing and getting our message out to make this a powerful and positive campaign. Last, but not least, thanks to all of you who will be out that week making our state safer!

We can all be proud of what is going on at our academy in Selma. Maj. Charles Andrews, Capt. Herman Wright and the staff have simply done an outstanding job. I have been down several times to see the current class — including teaching a class — and trust me: These recruits will be ready to wear the uniform. I was especially pleased that Col. Michael Berthey of the Mississippi Highway Patrol came to see how we run an accelerated class. Mississippi is considering this option and chose to view ours as an example. Col. Berthey spent time with Lt. Col. Bubba Bingham and me and then went to Selma the next day and inspected the

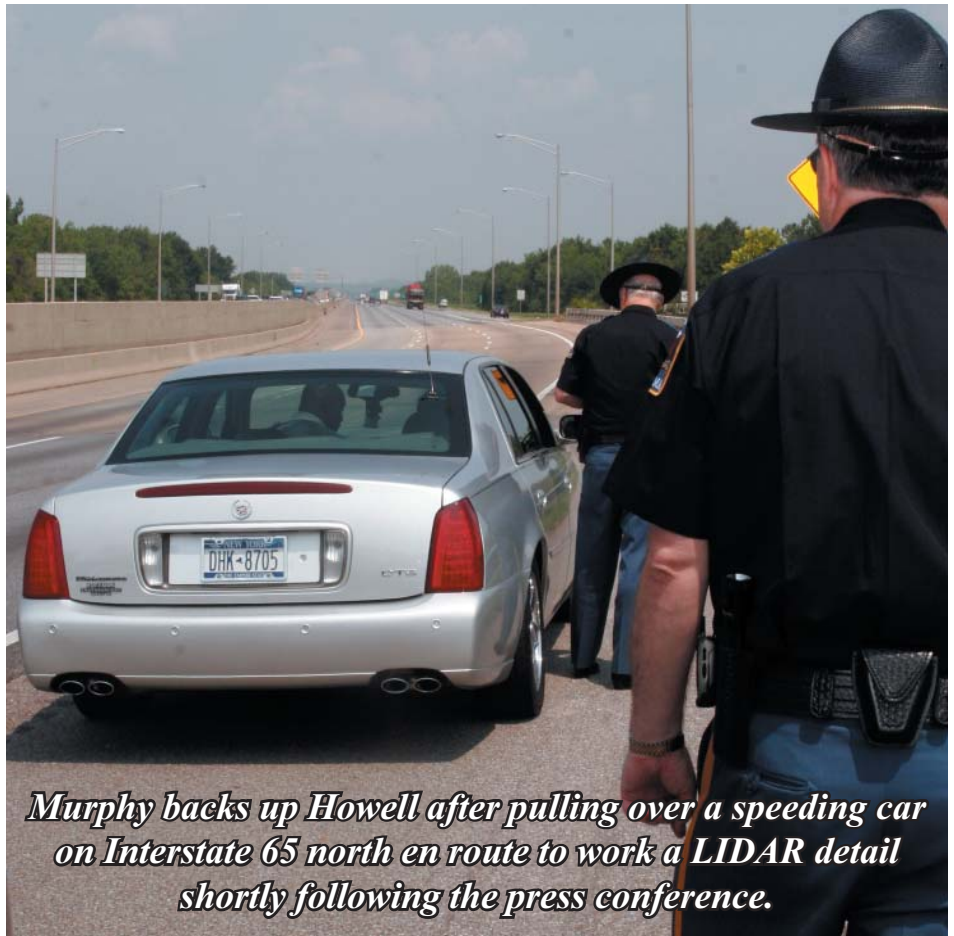


*Murphy, with staff, introduces "Take Back Our Highways" during press conference July 26.*

# The Colonel's Corner (CONTINUED)

class, addressed its members, and talked with the staff and several recruits. He was very complimentary of our academy and recruits and has invited us to initiate a visiting instructor program with his academy staff. Capt. Wright is exploring this invitation further.

I again want to congratulate all the new assistant division chiefs: Capt. Kevin Claunch, Administrative; Capt. Marty Griffin, ABI; Capt. Terry Chapman, Driver License; Capt. Marc McHenry, Highway Patrol; Capt. Todd Fulmer, Protective Services; and Capt. Gerone Grant, Service. I am convinced their leadership will promote their divisions, provide vision to their subordinates, and advance this department as a whole.



*Murphy backs up Howell after pulling over a speeding car on Interstate 65 north en route to work a LIDAR detail shortly following the press conference.*



*Following the press conference, Murphy answers a few questions for the WAKA news team concerning "Take Back Our Highways."*

One final note: Every day I am impressed with the level of commitment that I see in this department. I see women and men — arresting officers and civilians — doing their jobs with professionalism, with a positive demeanor, and with helpful attitudes. It is inspiring. I have made many changes since my arrival in December 2006, but I have not changed the core of this department. I have pulled in some areas and pushed in others, I have moved this and tweaked that, and I have tried to make decisions that are good for the department, that make us more efficient and more effective. These have all been business decisions, but the core of our greatness is the people. We have a noble cause and a life-and-death mission, and it is not the one sitting in the director's office who makes us great; it is the employees throughout this state who, day in and day out, do their jobs with pride, with integrity, and with open eyes and open minds. I appreciate you, and I am honored to be your director.



*Are You Ready To*  
**JOIN US?**

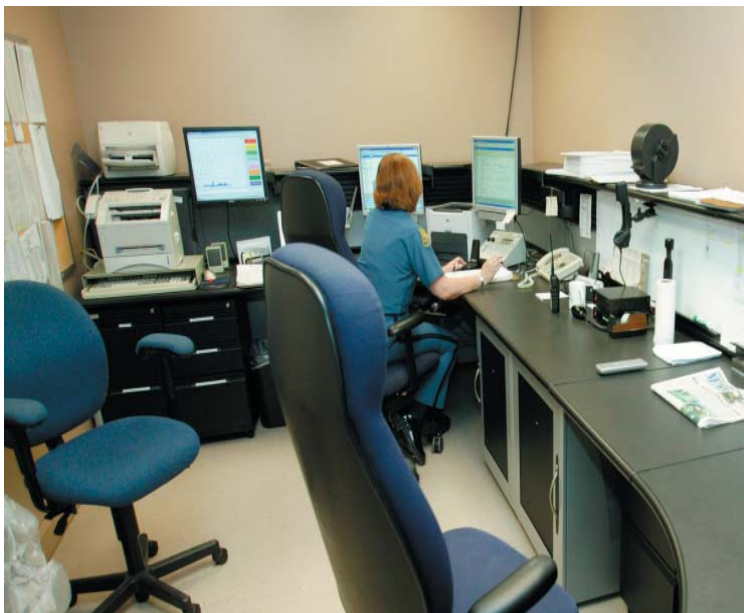


*But our new recruiting posters are even more valuable as a cornerstone in effectively attracting prospective troopers to the Alabama Department of Public Safety. These new posters clearly demonstrate the dedication and honor of the state of Alabama's finest.*

*Pictures Might be  
Worth a Thousand  
Words...*



*Special Thanks to Tprs. Glenn Furukawa, Ulane Jamison and Frank Sazera and to Tommy Giles, Maj. Roscoe Howell and Lt. Karl Wade for bringing this project to fruition.*



## New Post in Opelika Feels Like Home

From the new and state-of-the-art radio room to the additional 3,000 square feet of space, the improvements made at the brand new trooper post in Opelika are apparent from first glance. What might not be so obvious from first glance is the impact this change of scenery has had on DPS staff in the Opelika Post.

“It feels like home,” said Cynthia Tillery, ASA II. “The extra space really makes everything more efficient.” Lt. James Patterson agreed. “Since we moved in on June 18, I really have noticed how everyone here takes more pride in their workplace. Before, we barely had enough room to even move. Now, the building stays spotless, even without a custodian cleaning after us.”

The new facility is 5,200 square feet, more than double the size of the old post occupied for more than 15 years. The space within the post is used

efficiently to increase productivity, as evidenced with the four corporal offices linked to a large bull room. In addition to increased size, the property offers increased security features, a greatly improved parking lot, and a more professional exterior appearance than the previous post.

While many people are involved in acquiring the property for the new Opelika Post, Sgt. Sue Capps and Lt. George Thorpe are responsible for initially finding the property and realizing its potential in functionality as a trooper post. Col. J. Christopher Murphy toured the facility in February and agreed the space should be pursued. From there, Michael Robinson hastened the moving process by drawing up the needed contracts. Within two months, the post was ready for the move. Special thanks are extended to Ken Perryman, Beckey Weldon, and Capt. Marc McHenry in acquiring furniture needed for the new post.





In the early morning hours of July 25, ACTJC staff staged a “Critical Incident” for Trooper Trainee Class 2007-A in Selma. The training scenario involved a series of staged events that mock real-life situations that troopers face with their day-to-day duties. The training situation was designed to simulate emergency conditions closely related to those in the field.

Trooper trainees were placed “on call” July 24, and at 1 a.m., were notified by dispatch of a 10-50. Trainees designated to respond to the 10-50 did so using pursuit vehicles, and upon arrival at the scene, requested back-up from other trainees designated to work in supporting roles. These trainees were staffing mobile command stations, performing traffic control, and collecting evidence and measurements. Additionally, the trainee designated to be in charge of the scene was required to properly position the trooper cars for maximum visibility and traffic control, as well as manage both fire/rescue and local law enforcement processing the scene.

Special thanks to all those assisting in coordinating the scenario, including the Selma Police Department, Dallas County Sheriff’s Office, Wallace Community College, Selma Fire Department, and the Selma Regional Medical Center.



## Crittenden Retires from DPS

Capt. McArthur Crittenden, commander of the Dothan Post celebrated his retirement after 27 years on Friday, July 20, with a gathering of friends, family and colleagues at Zacks restaurant in Dothan.

Those in attendance honored Crittenden and congratulated him on a successful career of service to the Department of Public Safety.

DPS wishes the captain every success and happiness in retirement.



*Crittenden, right, with Lt. Charles Ward*



## DPS Gone Fishing!

The ABI Division recently held a trial run for the upcoming DPS fishing tournament at Lake Jordan. All the competitors were local staff, with the exception of Retired Capt. Loyd Arrington. Everyone's patience was tested as thermometers soared to 93 degrees, with little to no cloud cover. During the weigh-in at the State Docks, located just north of the Jordan Dam, Ryan Barfoot, son of Sherry Barfoot, was strictly controlling the scales. Ryan really had his hands full getting an accurate weight of the fish, but when he finally put his foot down and weighed the fish, Lts. Bill Eller and Jim Roberts came out as the winners. They were followed by Arrington and Capt. Marty Griffin, who also won the big fish award.

Overall the trial was a success and everyone had fun readying for the DPS fishing tournament Sept. 29 at Paradise Point on Lay Lake, located on Alabama 145 just off Interstate 65.

Anyone is eligible to participate in the upcoming tournament, provided at least one DPS member is in each boat. Additional rules for the fishing tournament will follow as the event gets closer.

Please contact Sherry at (334) 353-1695 if you wish to fish in the September tournament.



# People You Know!



## *New Employees*

Carl Allen	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACJTC
Brittany Andrews	6/18/07	Clerical Aide	ADM/Personnel Unit
Thomas Andrews	6/16/07	Equipment Operator I	SER/Fleet Maintenance
Terry Bozeman	7/02/07	Service Patrol Officer	HP/Birmingham
Donald Burkett	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACJTC
Audrey Cain	7/02/07	PCO I	HP/Jacksonville
Sandra Carmichael	6/18/07	ASA I	HP/Huntsville
Joseph Champion	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACJTC
Theodore Chastain	7/02/07	IT Systems Technician	DL/Montgomery
Janet Davis	6/18/07	PCO I	HP/Opelika
Michael Edwards	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACJTC
Dexter Emmanuel	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
Robert Evetts	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
Aaron Flanery	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
William Fox	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
William Gaddis	7/02/07	Comm. Technician II	SER/Tuscaloosa
Raymond Garrison Jr.	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
William Gifford	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
Jacob Goolsby	7/02/07	Service Patrol Operator	HP/Birmingham
Jonathan Gregg	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
Ronald Johnston	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
Ashley Jowers	6/18/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Mobile
Stephen Knight	7/02/07	Service Patrol Operator	HP/Birmingham
Jacob Mayo	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
Gloria McCovery	6/18/07	PCO I	HP/Mobile
Steven McWaters	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
George Parker	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
Eric Morris	6/18/07	PCO I	HP/Jacksonville
Steven Saint	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
Lee Smith	6/18/07	PCO I	HP/Opelika
Lloyd Smith Jr.	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACJTC
Timothy Snyder	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
Timothy Suggs	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
Glen Suits	6/18/07	Capitol Police Officer	PS/Capitol Police
Andrew Terry	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
Kenneth Thomas	6/17/07	Trooper Trainee	SER/ACTJC
Jane Weldon	6/25/07	Retired State Employee	ADM/Public Information
Donna Wingard	6/18/07	PCO I	Evergreen



# People You Know!



## *Promotions*

Clay Barnes	7/01/07	Lieutenant	ABI/EOD Technical Services
Billy Brown	7/01/07	Sergeant	HP/Headquarters
Darrell Campbell	7/01/07	Sergeant	DL/Huntsville Examining
Susanna Capps	7/01/07	Sergeant	HP/Opelika Post
Terry Chapman	7/01/07	Captain	DL/Assistant Division Chief
Debra Cheatum	7/01/07	Sergeant	DL/Tuscaloosa Examining
Kevin Claunch	7/01/07	Captain	ADM/Assistant Division Chief
Shanekia Conwell	7/01/07	Account Clerk	ADM/Financial Services
Tammy Davidson	6/16/07	PCO III	HP/Selma Post
Daniel Dean	7/01/07	Sergeant	ADM/Inspections Unit
Ronni Fetty	7/01/07	Corporal	DL/Fraud Unit
Richard Fulmer	7/01/07	Captain	PS/Assistant Division Chief
Gregory Grimes	7/01/07	Sergeant	DL/Hearing Unit
Bobby Head	7/01/07	Lieutenant	ADM/Inspections Unit
Gregory Hollimon	7/01/07	PCO III	HP/Quad Cities Post
Marc McHenry	7/01/07	Captain	HP/Assistant Division Chief
Michael Payne	7/01/07	Sergeant	HP/Jacksonville Post
Patty Smith	6/16/07	ASA II	ABI/CIC
Robert Till	7/01/07	Sergeant	HP/Montgomery Post
John Wall	7/01/07	Corporal	ABI/Investigative Operations
Durwood White	7/01/07	Lieutenant	HP/Selma Post

## *Transfers*

Jerry Conner	7/01/07	Captain	ABI/Investigative Operations
Rachel Elrod	7/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Jacksonville Examining
Ronald Hayden	5/16/07	Corporal	ABI/Investigative Operations
Debra Hester	6/16/07	PCO II	HP/Dothan Post
Randy Jenkins	7/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Huntsville Examining
Paul Mashburn	7/01/07	Trooper	DL/Decatur Examining
Margaret Richardson	7/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Dothan Examining
Edward Ryan	6/16/07	Trooper	HP/Headquarters
David Sizemore	6/16/07	Trooper	HP/Hamilton Post
Gregory Weaver	7/01/07	Trooper	HP/Tuscaloosa Post
Jeanette Wilson	6/16/07	Retired State Employee	HP/Gadsden Post
Agatha Windsor	7/01/07	Captain	ABI/CIC



# People You Know!



## *Retirements*

Loyd Arrington	6/29/07	Captain	ABI/Assistant Division Chief
Lyndel Davis	6/29/07	Comm. Technician II	SER/Communications Engineering
Robert Harrison	6/29/07	Lieutenant	HP/Montgomery
Harry Kearley	6/29/07	Captain	SER/Assistant Division Chief
Randall Lewis	6/29/07	Trooper	HP/Mobile
Shirley McCall	6/29/07	DL Examiner	DL/Selma
Michael Nixon	6/30/07	Trooper	HP/Hamilton



## **A Word of Thanks...**

The Alabama Department of Public Safety is truly a unique family. I can attest that the members of this department have the distinguished character of empathy on a level that I believe cannot be rivaled. Being a member of this department for more than 27 years has afforded my family and me the experience to have had the prayers and support provided to my family from all at Public Safety.

Brenda will forever be a remarkable lady. She was truly a trooper's wife. She believed in Public Safety and was committed to supporting her Public Safety family. She took the time out to share her experiences, give a smile or have a conversation with all. It is a pleasure to have shared that diamond of a lady with you all.

The care and support extended to me and my family by the members of this department during the illness of my wife, Brenda, and following her death have meant more to us than I can say. Your thoughts, prayers, many calls, cards, and other kindnesses are deeply appreciated by Katrina, Chelsea, Carlynn and me. The DPS family has been and continues to be a wonderful source of strength and solace for us. Thank you all.

*-Major Charles Andrews*



## DL Examiner Receives AAMVA Award

Stacy Sizemore, DL Examiner I, Decatur Examining, recently was honored at an awards banquet in Florida sponsored by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. Sizemore was the regional winner of the Customer Service Excellence Award, given by the AAMVA for her impeccable work standards of constantly meeting the needs of a demanding and often impatient public.

Also honored by AAMVA was *The Blue Light*, which received the organization's award for best internal newsletter. Martha Earnhardt, Public Information, accepted the award for DPS.



*Sizemore displaying her Customer Service Excellence Award, together with Cpl. Christopher Robertson (left) and Cpl. Andy Pike (right).*

*Alabama Department of*



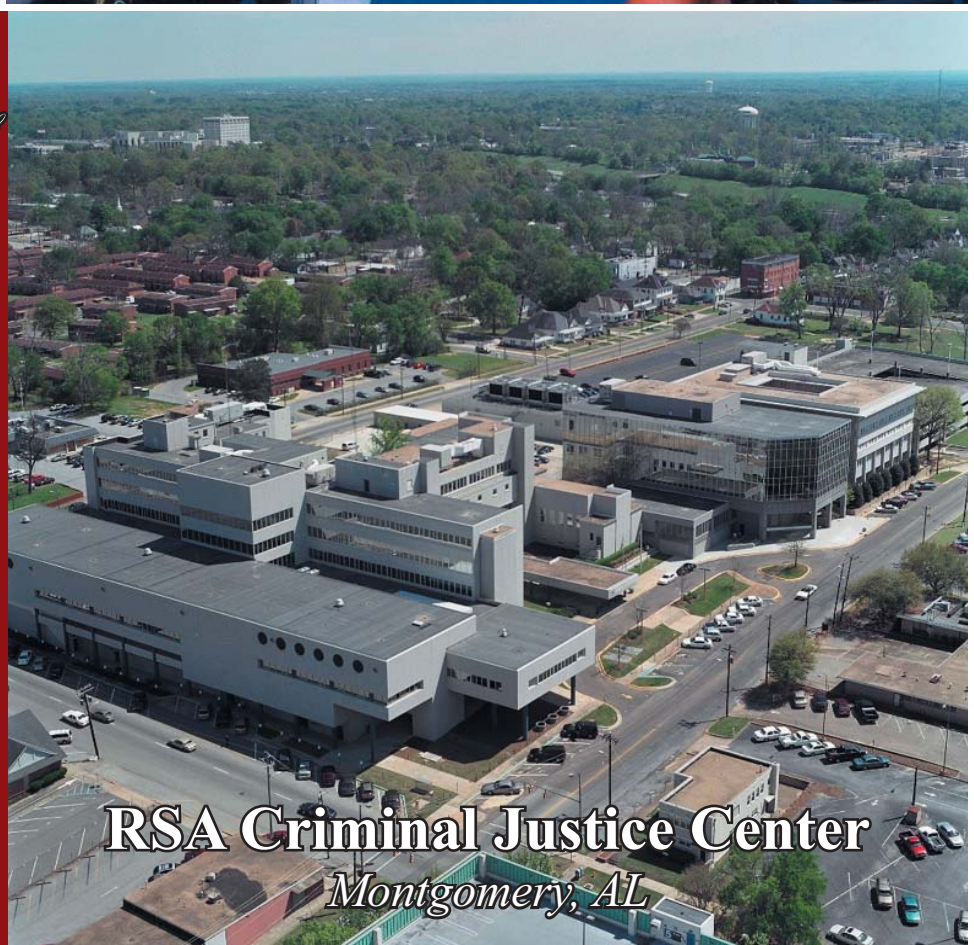
Public Safety

### Contributors:

Capt. Harry Nail, DL  
Lt. Clay Barnes, ABI  
Sgt. Karl Youngblood, ABI  
Tpr. John Reese, ADM  
Tommy Giles, Photography

### Editor:

Ryan Godfrey



**RSA Criminal Justice Center**  
*Montgomery, AL*

Can't Get to Montgomery? Grab a mouse and visit us on the web at:

**[www.dps.alabama.gov](http://www.dps.alabama.gov)**